

# FISHERMEN'S REPORT

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Spring Bottom Trawl Survey  
Preliminary Catch Summary  
Cape Hatteras - Gulf of Maine  
March 1 - April 22, 1999

Attached is a listing and series of geographical plots of commercially and recreationally important species caught during the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's 1999 spring bottom trawl survey aboard the *R/V ALBATROSS IV*. Tows were made with a #36 Yankee otter trawl rigged with rollers, 5 fathom legs and 1000 pound polyvalent doors. The codend and upper belly were lined with 1/2-inch mesh to retain young-of-the-year fish.

Because of the 30-minute tow duration, and random selection of station locations, catches can be light compared with commercial tows. Also, vessel operations are on a 24-hour basis and catches have not been adjusted for day/night catchability differences. Nevertheless, these data can provide fishermen with useful information about the distribution and relative abundance of species inhabiting the survey area (Cape Hatteras to the Gulf of Maine).

In an effort to make this report timely, the data are summarized from unaudited catch files. Therefore, data records in this report are provisional and subject to change.

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